

## Tribute

By Julie Davis

Maria Ceresa's appointment as LSNT Executive Officer on 1 March 1999 marked the beginning of four years of steady rise in the profile of the Society and the profession. Maria brought an important dimension to the Society that raised the interest and sometimes passions of the Council, LSNT members, independent legal associations, the media, the government and members of the public. In the Secretariat's corridors whispers that *Cyclone Maria* had entered the atmosphere were heard and I assure you this was a reference to the energy and determination she maintained during her tenure - a pace we strove to match under her leadership. The many complimentary comments about *Balance* that the LSNT has received verbally and in writing in recent years are a tribute to the media savvy and direction provided by Maria in conjunction with Public Relations Officers Lorelei Fong Lim (current) and Samantha Willcox (former, now NTLAC). In addition, the dedicated and consistent contribution Maria made in achieving change, in addressing the many issues raised within the Society and in engaging the interest and participation of members of the profession is to be commended. The Secretariat farewells Maria and wishes her well in her new position at the Queensland Law Society.

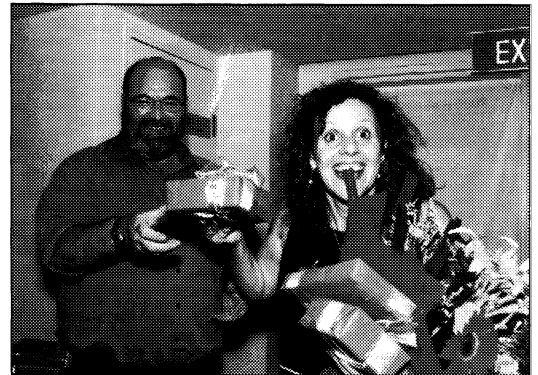


Above: Maria was used as a "wig stand" at the OLY. The photo reprinted here courtesy of the NT News.

# Farewell Maria, happy anniversary Julie

It was a struggle for the Secretariat and LSNT Councillors but we managed to surprise both Maria Ceresa AND Julie Davis with a couple of presentations at the Opening of the Legal Year lunch in Darwin.

As has been widely known, Maria has left after four years with the LSNT, for the Queensland Law Society. After the formal proceedings of the lunch, LSNT President Ian Morris presented Maria with a going away gift set of crocodile leather products and flowers.



Administration and Finance Manager Julie was presented with a magnificent pearl necklace and flowers. Having served 10 years with the Law Society, Julie was honoured for her dedication and professionalism.



The "struggle" was keeping it all a secret. Maria knew about Julie's present and Julie knew about Maria's. Those who knew about both had to be VERY careful not to inadvertently tip them off.

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